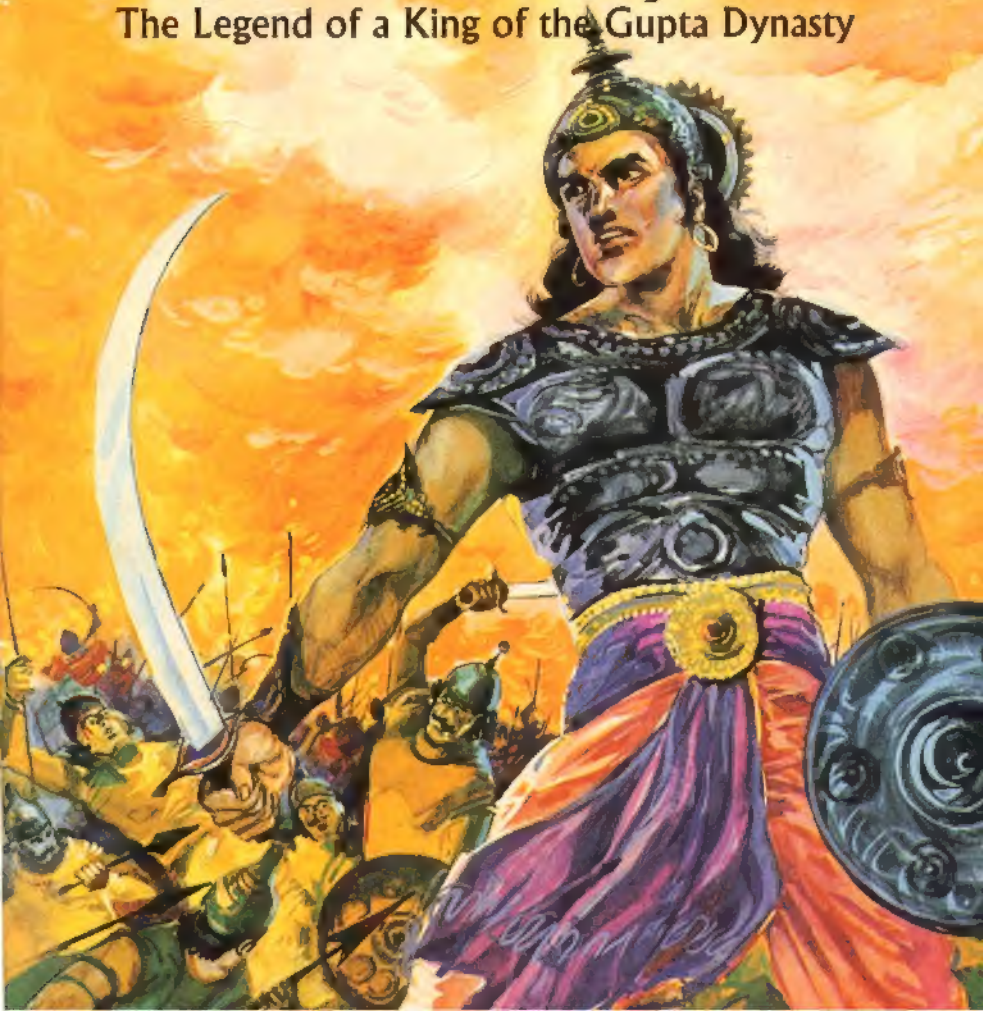




Vikramaditya

The Legend of a King of the Gupta Dynasty





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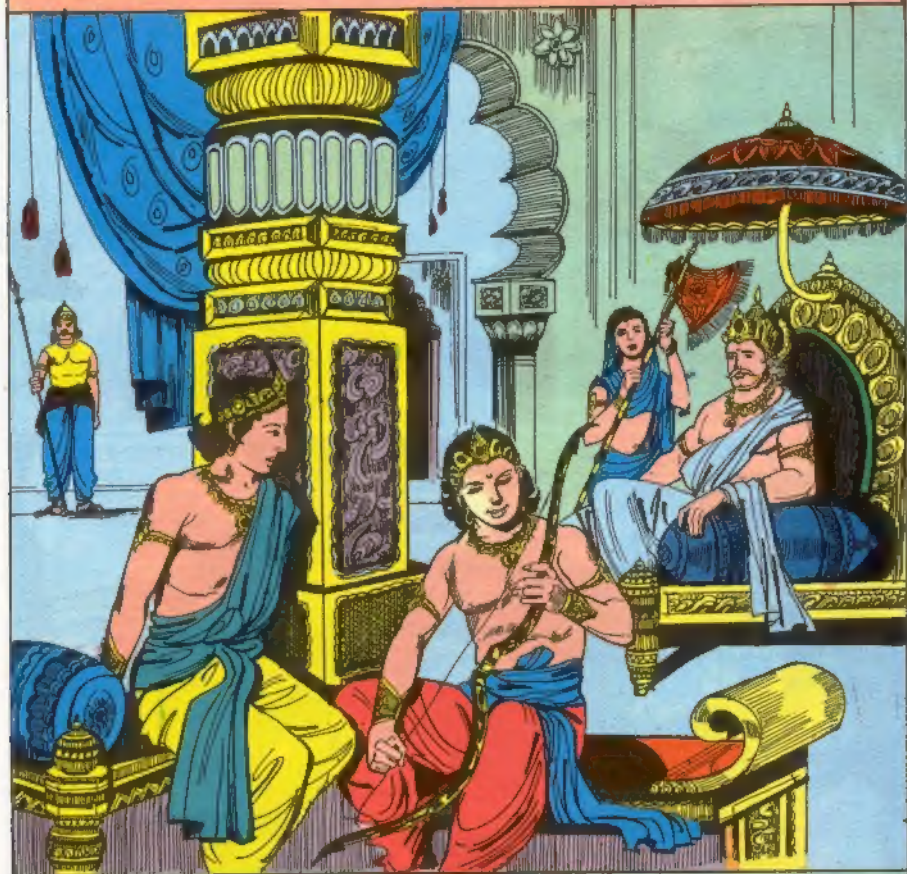
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Vikramaditya



ABOUT 1,600 YEARS AGO, A VAST PART OF INDIA WAS RULED BY A GREAT KING, SAMUDRAGUPTA. PATALIPUTRA WAS ITS CAPITAL. THE KING HAD TWO SONS - RAMAGUPTA AND CHANDRAGUPTA.

THEY HAD A NUMBER OF PLAYMATES, SONS OF THEIR FATHER'S
MINISTERS AND OFFICERS. ONE DAY -



PRASEN,
SHALL WE
GO TO THE
RIVER BANK
TO PLAY?

THAT
WILL BE
GREAT
FUN!

THE RIVER
BANK IS
HAUNTED BY
WILD BEASTS.
LET US SEE
WHAT
FATHER
SAYS.

THEY WENT TO THE KING.

MAY WE GO TO
THE RIVER BANK
FOR A WALK?

CERTAINLY
MY SONS;
YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO
FEAR.

AS THEY PLAYED ON THE RIVER BANK -

RUN PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA,
RUN. A LION IS
COMING THIS
WAY!

CHANDRA-
GUPTA, RUN
FOR YOUR
LIFE!



BUT CHANDRAGUPTA STOOD
HIS GROUND.

LET IT COME.
I'LL FACE IT.



AS THE LION ATTACKED HIM,
CHANDRAGUPTA SIDE-STEPPED AND -



RAMAGUPTA, HE IS BRAVE,
ISN'T HE?

HE WAS
JUST TRY-
ING TO
SHOW OFF.



AS THE PRINGES DID NOT RETURN IN TIME, SAMUDRAGUPTA HAD SENT HIS SOLDIERS TO LOOK FOR THEM.



THE SOLDIERS RUSHED BACK AND INFORMED SAMUDRAGUPTA.



AT THAT MOMENT THE PRINGES AND THEIR FRIENDS ARRIVED FOLLOWED BY A CHEERING CROWD.







CHANDRAGUPTA
MIGHT...

IT'S TOO SOON.
YOUR FATHER'S
ASHES ARE
STILL WARM.

WHEN A FEW DAYS HAD GONE BY -



YOUR HOLINESS, PLEASE
MAKE THE NECESSARY
ARRANGEMENTS TO
CROWN PRINCE
RAMAGUPTA.

BUT
OUR LATE
MAHARAJ HAD WISHED
PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA
TO SUCCEED HIM.

BUT PRASEN!
THE RIGHT OF
SUCCESSION IS
MY ELDER BROTHER'S.

THE CROWNING CEREMONY
WAS PERFORMED.



MAY YOU
SAFEGUARD THE
TRADITIONS OF
YOUR ANCESTORS
AND THE COUNTRY,
SIRE!

HE WILL SAFEGUARD
NEITHER OF THE TWO.
TAKE MY WORD
FOR IT.

LATER RAMAGUPTA MARRIED DHRUVA DEVI, A PRINCESS OF MATCHLESS BEAUTY.

WELCOME, CHANDRA-GUPTA. THE QUEEN HAS BEEN ENQUIRING ABOUT YOU.

I HAD HEARD OF YOUR HEROIC DEEDS EVEN BEFORE I WAS MARRIED, CHANDRAGUPTA.

THE FOLLOWING DAY...

MADHAVI, THERE IS NO EXAGGERATION IN WHAT THEY SAY OF CHANDRA-GUPTA.

YES, HE DESERVES ALL THEY SAY AND MORE.

PRINCE CHANDRA-GUPTA RENOUNCED THE CROWN FOR YOUR HUSBAND.

IS THAT SO?

ONE DAY...

MY LORD, I AM TOLD PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA GAVE UP THE CROWN FOR YOU!

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD MANY MORE THINGS.

MY QUEEN, NOBODY EVER MAKES SUCH A SACRIFICE FOR ANOTHER.

SOME MONTHS LATER, THE KING WENT ON AN EXPEDITION TO THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE KINGDOM. WHEN IT GREW DARK, THEY ALL CAMPED NEAR A RIVER.



NEXT MORNING WHEN THEY STARTED MARCHING AHEAD -



SOON A SOLDIER CAME RUSHING TO THE KING.



SOME TIME LATER -

I BRING BAD NEWS, O KING! THE PASS THROUGH WHICH WE CAME HAS ALSO BEEN CAPTURED BY THE SAKAS. WE ARE TRAPPED!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW? WE WILL BE MASSACRED. FIND SOME WAY OUT, MINISTER.

FIND OUT WHAT THE SAKA KING WANTS. OFFER HIM A PEACE TREATY.

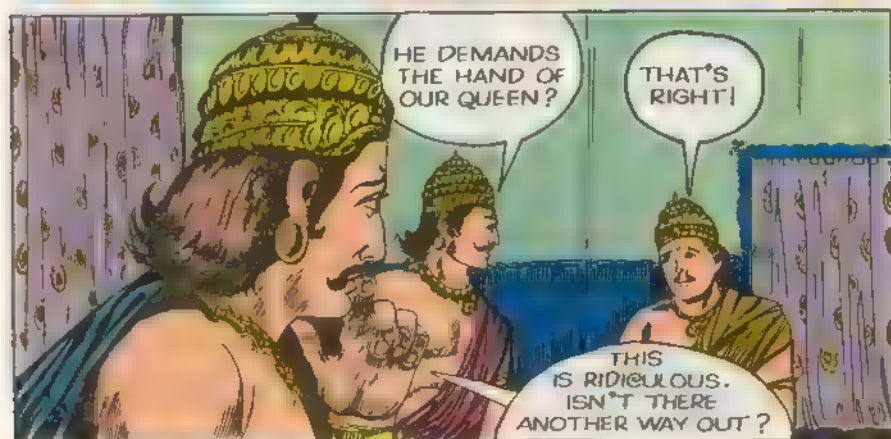
A TREATY? IS THERE NO ALTERNATIVE?

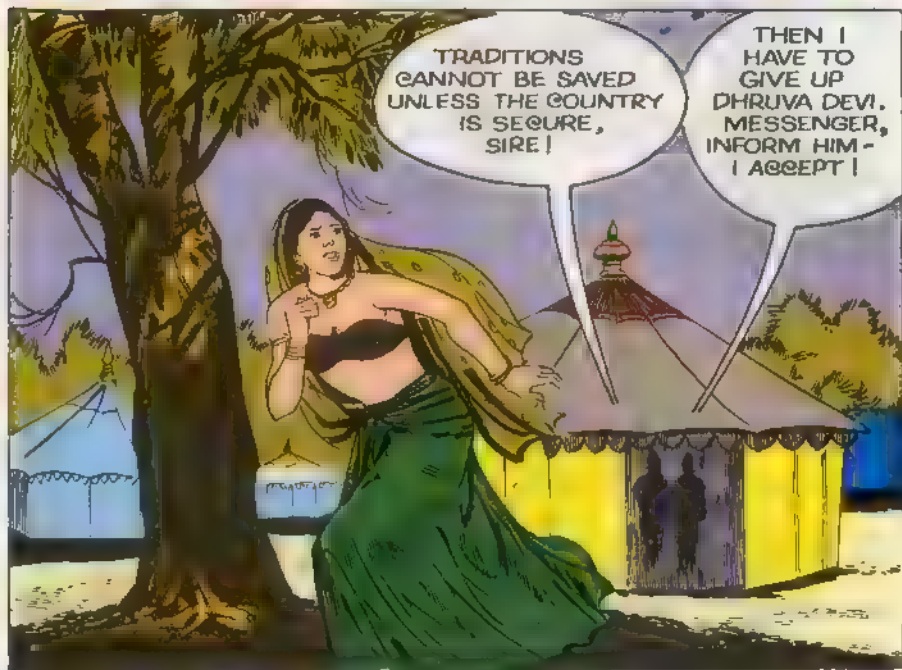
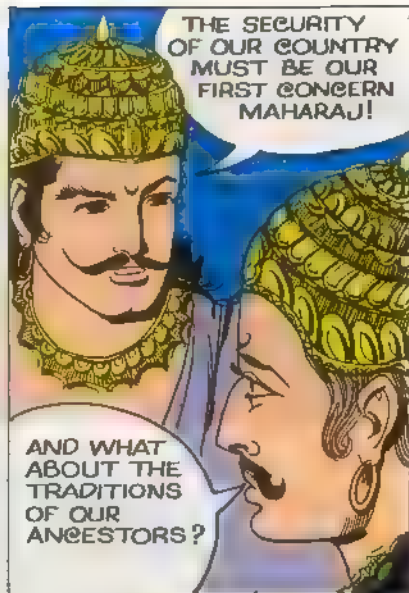
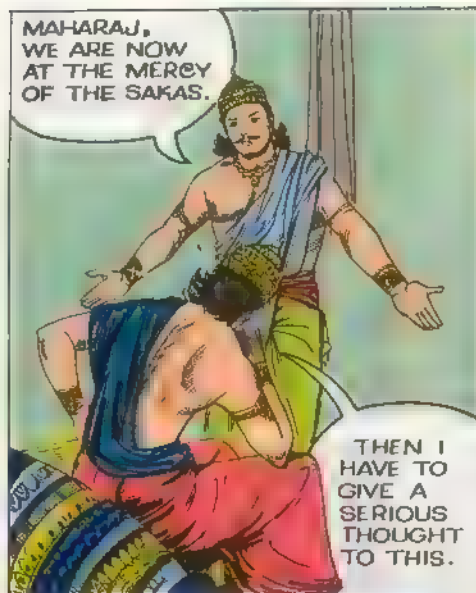
GO AWAY FROM HERE. DON'T MIDDLE IN THE MATTERS OF STATE.

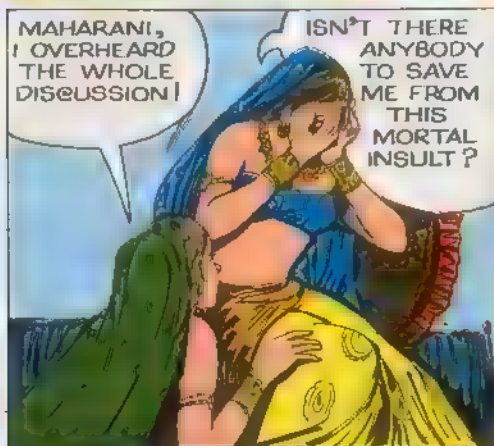
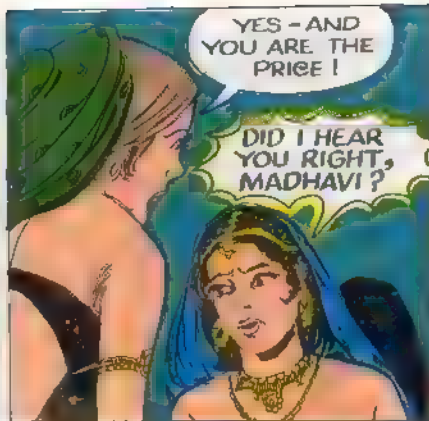
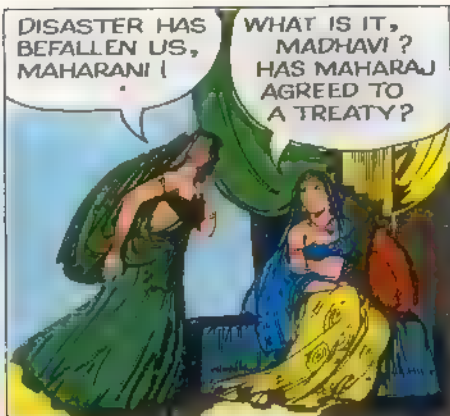
SOON THE KING'S MESSENGER RETURNED.

WHAT DOES THE SAKA KING SAY?

MAHARAJ, I DON'T DARE REPEAT IT!



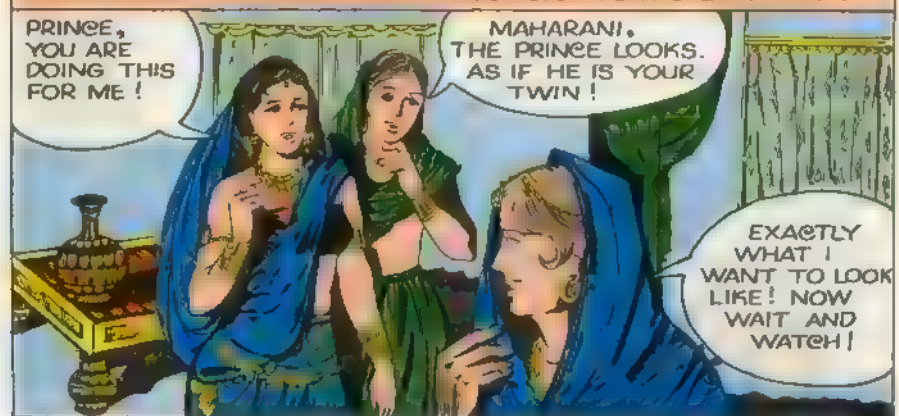








THE DAY DHRUVA DEVI WAS TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE SAKA KING -





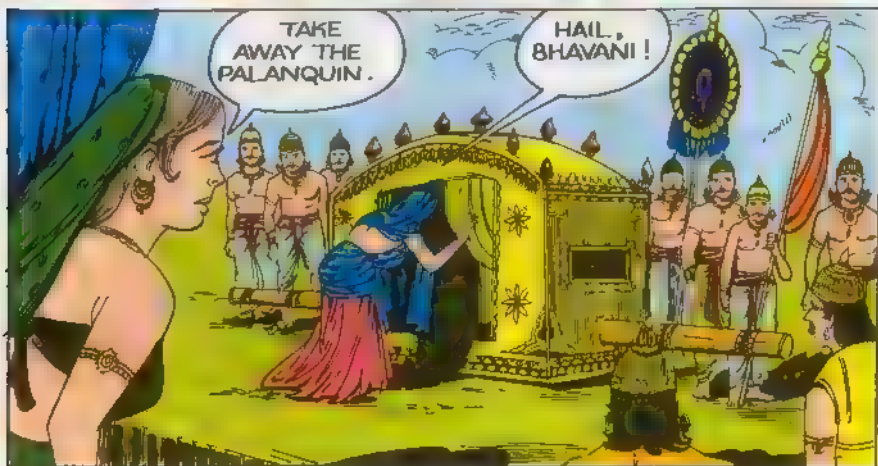
THE SWORD IS
WELL HIDDEN -
ISN'T IT
MADHAVI ?

YES,
PRINCE,
COMPLETELY.
NO ONE
WILL EVER
SUSPECT!



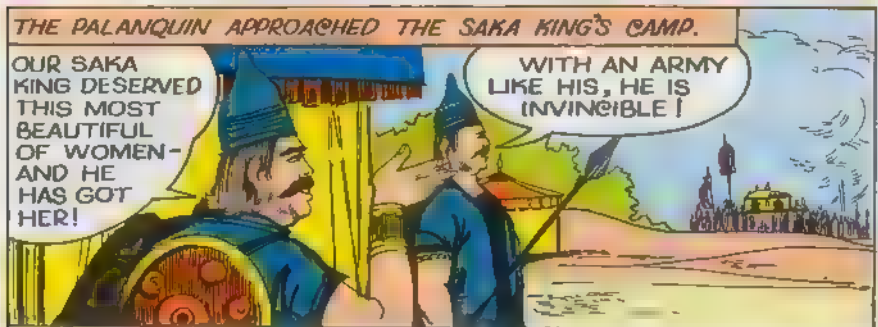
THEN,
PERMIT ME
TO DEPART,
DEVI!

GOD BE
WITH YOU
PRINCE!



TAKE
AWAY THE
PALANQUIN.

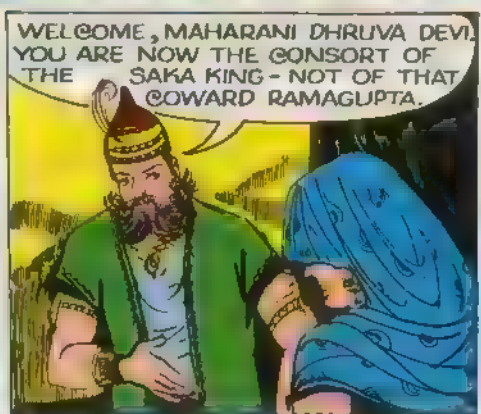
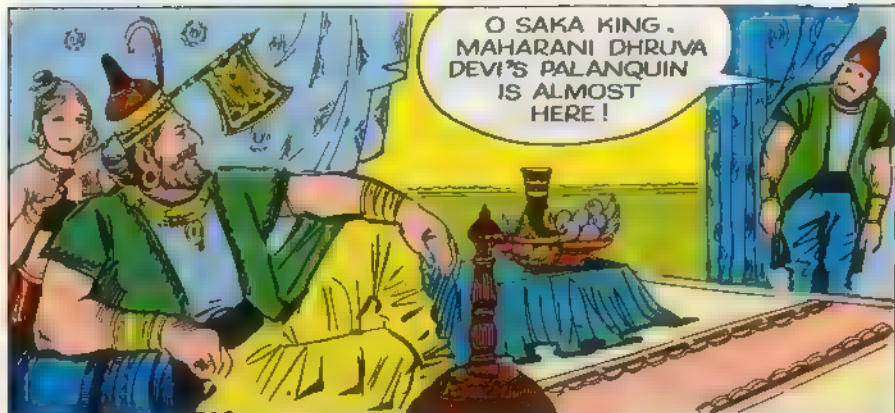
HAIL,
BHAVANI!

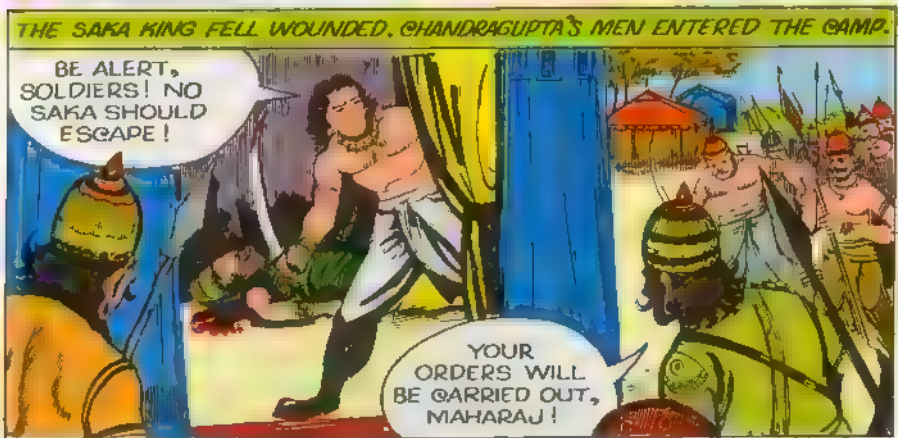
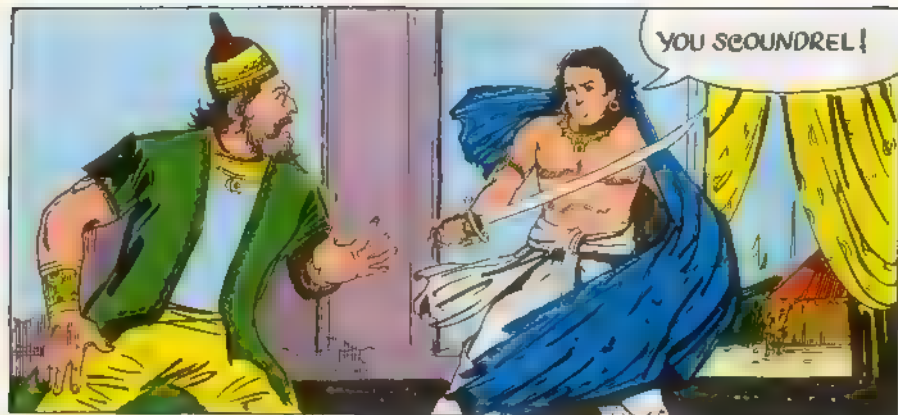


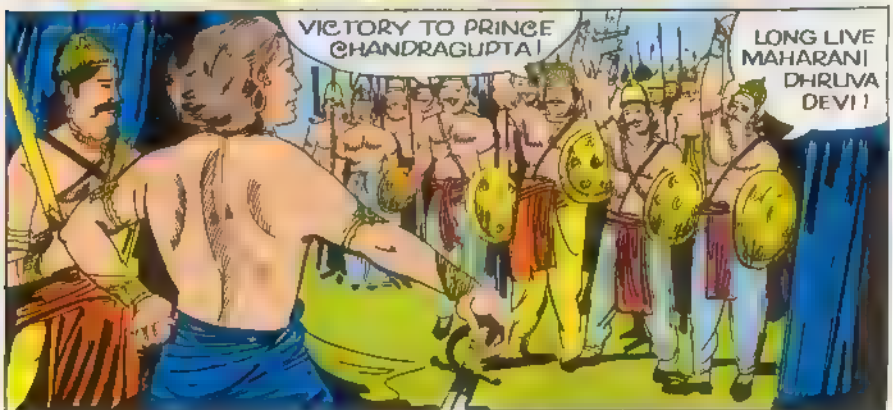
THE PALANQUIN APPROACHED THE SAKA KING'S CAMP.

OUR SAKA
KING DESERVED
THIS MOST
BEAUTIFUL
OF WOMEN -
AND HE
HAS GOT
HER!

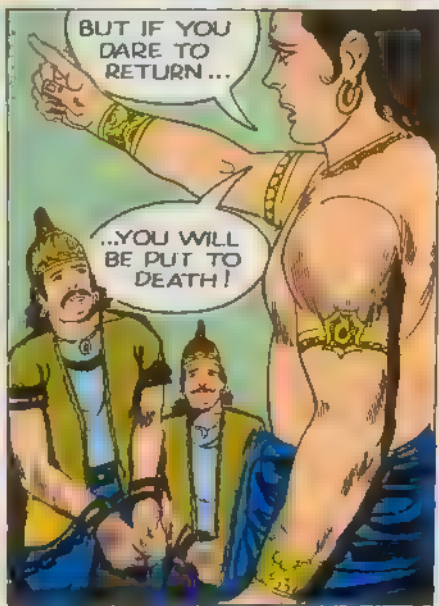
WITH AN ARMY
LIKE HIS, HE IS
INVINCIBLE!







HUNDREDS OF SAKA SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS WERE TAKEN PRISONERS



INFORMED OF THE SAKA DEBACLE, RAMAGUPTA AND DHRUVA DEVI
ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.

I AM VERY PLEASED WITH
YOU, CHANDRAGUPTA. YOU
WILL BE REWARDED WELL.

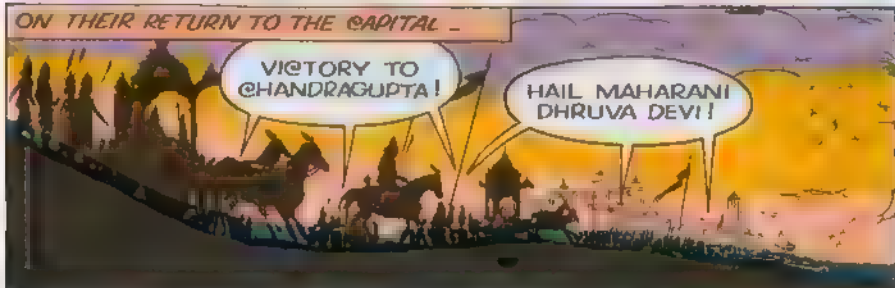
I AM INDEBTED TO
YOU, FOR EVER,
PRINCE.



ON THEIR RETURN TO THE CAPITAL -

VICTORY TO
CHANDRAGUPTA!

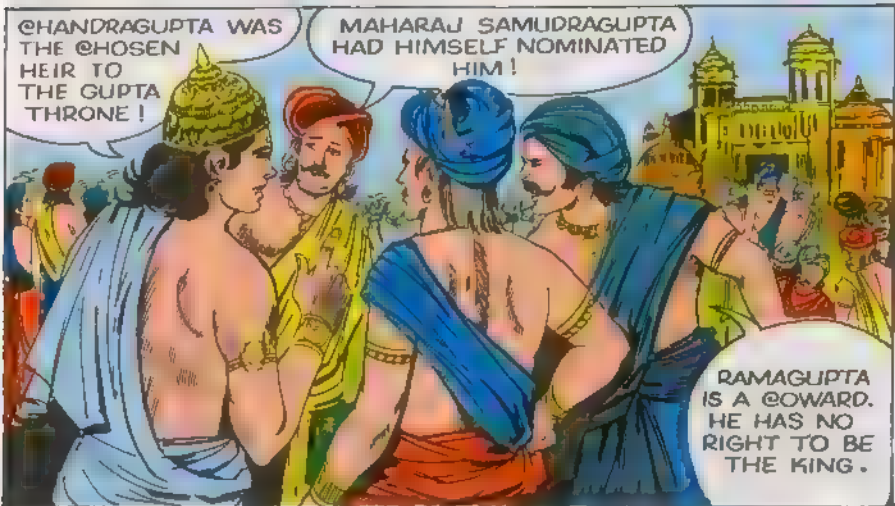
HAIL MAHARANI
DHURVA DEVI!

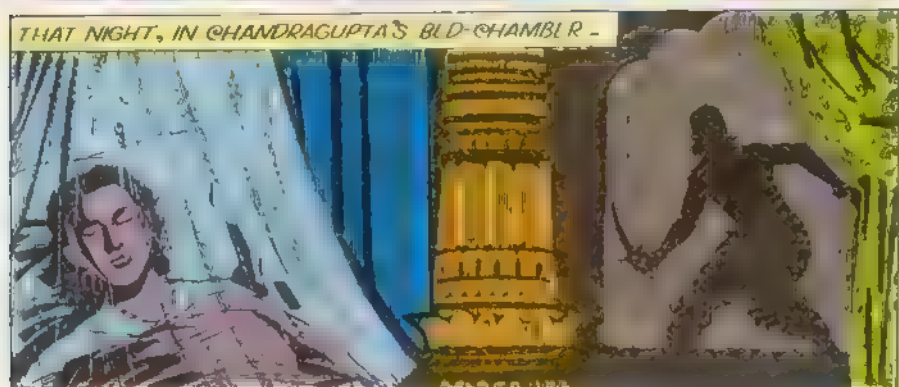
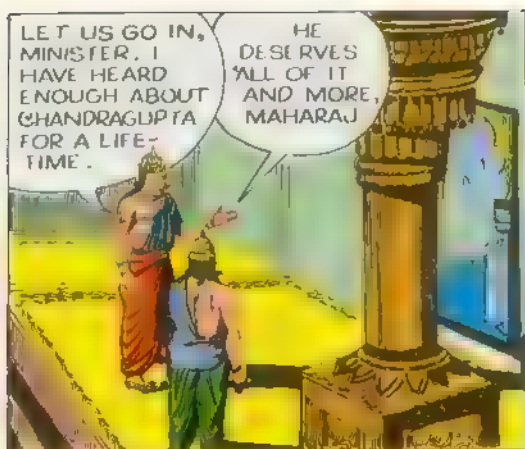


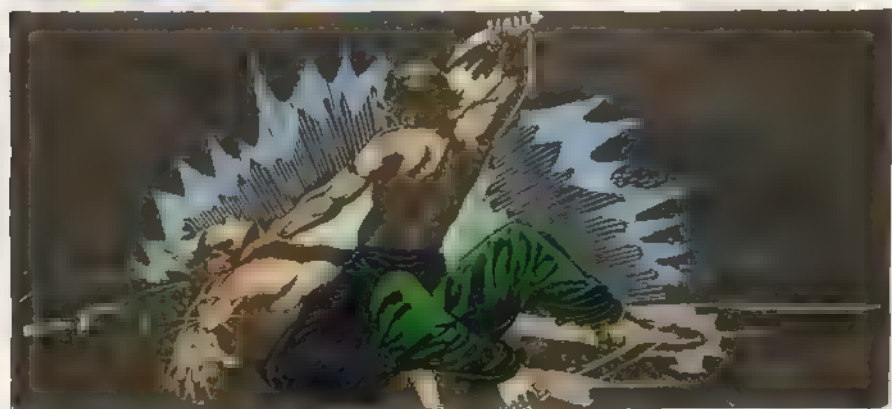
CHANDRAGUPTA WAS
THE CHOSEN
HEIR TO
THE GUPTA
THRONE!

MAHARAJ SAMUDRAGUPTA
HAD HIMSELF NOMINATED
HIM!

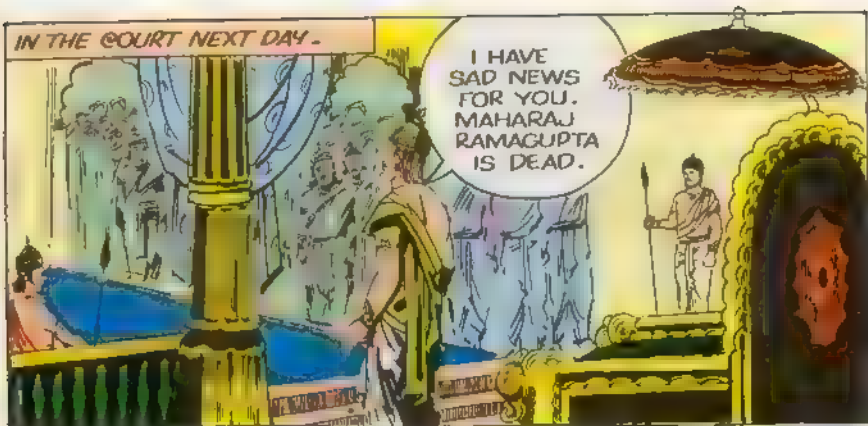
RAMAGUPTA
IS A COWARD.
HE HAS NO
RIGHT TO BE
THE KING.





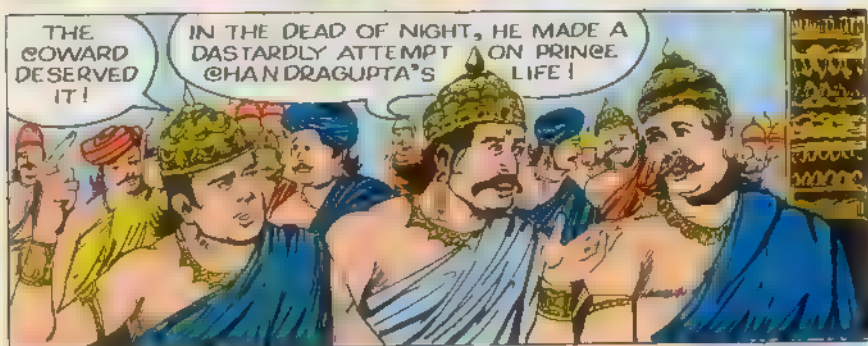


IN THE COURT NEXT DAY.



THE
COWARD
DESERVED
IT!

IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, HE MADE A
DASTARDLY ATTEMPT ON PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA'S LIFE!



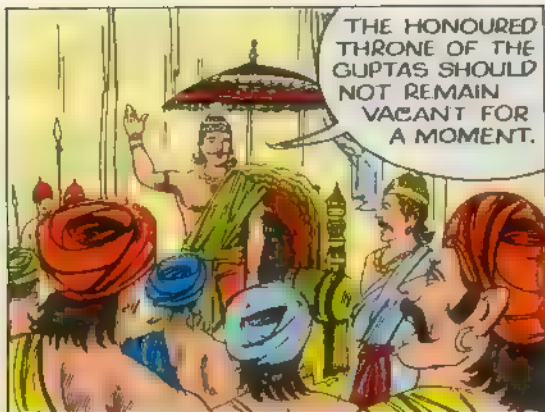
AT THAT MOMENT A THROG OF PEOPLE ENTERED THE COURT.

VICTORY TO
CHANDRAGUPTA!

HE CAN SAFEGUARD THE
COUNTRY AND THE
GUPTA TRADITIONS!

YES.
PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA IS THE
RIGHTFUL
HEIR TO THE
GUPTA
THRONE.

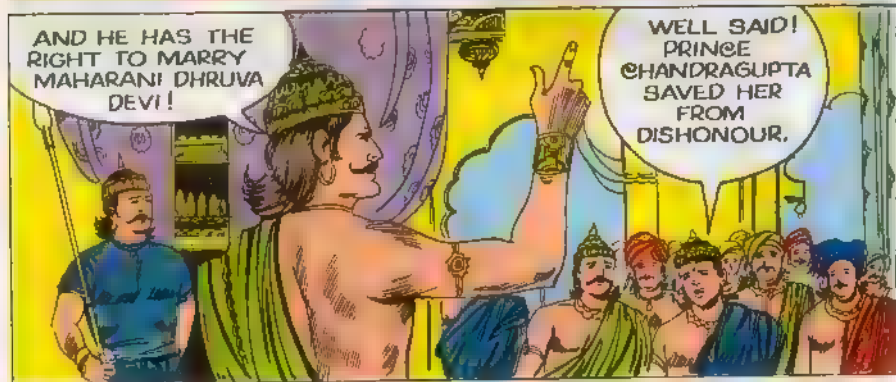






WE WILL LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA!

PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA IS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE GUPTA THRONE!



AND HE HAS THE RIGHT TO MARRY MAHARANI DHRUVA DEVI!

WELL SAID! PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA SAVED HER FROM DISHONOUR.



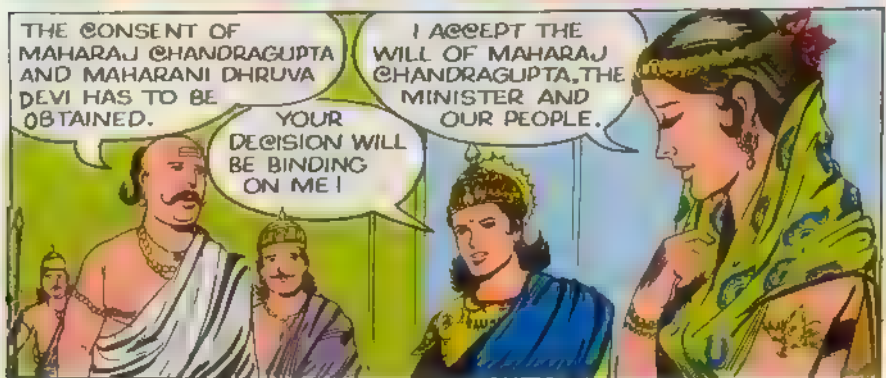
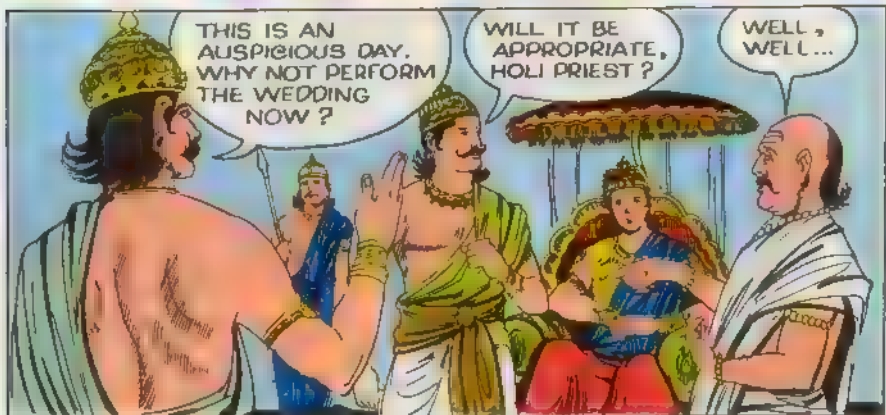
YOUR HOLINESS, PLEASE COME UP.

THE WEDDING SHOULD BE PERFORMED RIGHT AFTER THE CROWNING CEREMONY.

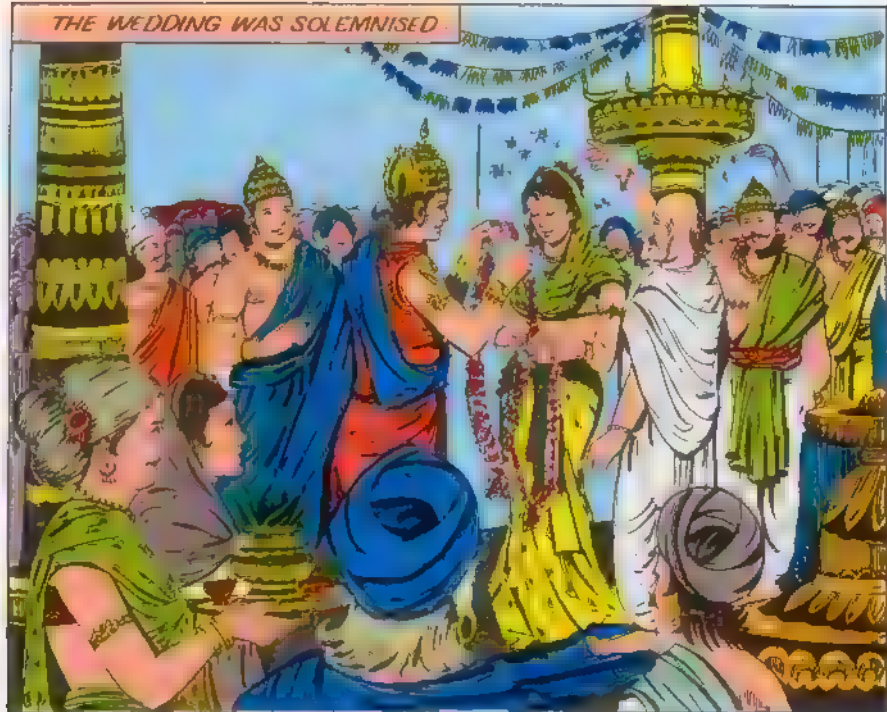
AFTER THE CROWNING CEREMONY...



THE BURDEN OF DEFENDING THE COUNTRY IS NOW YOURS, MAHARAJ CHANDRAGUPTA.

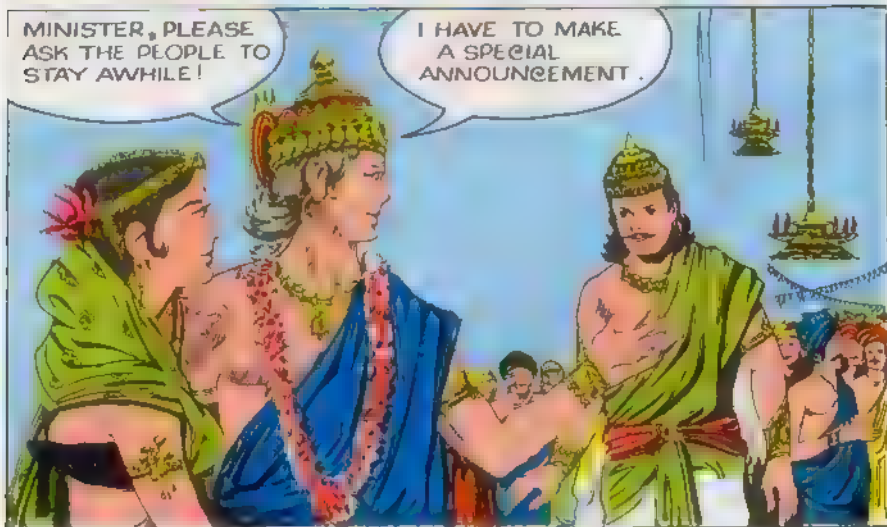


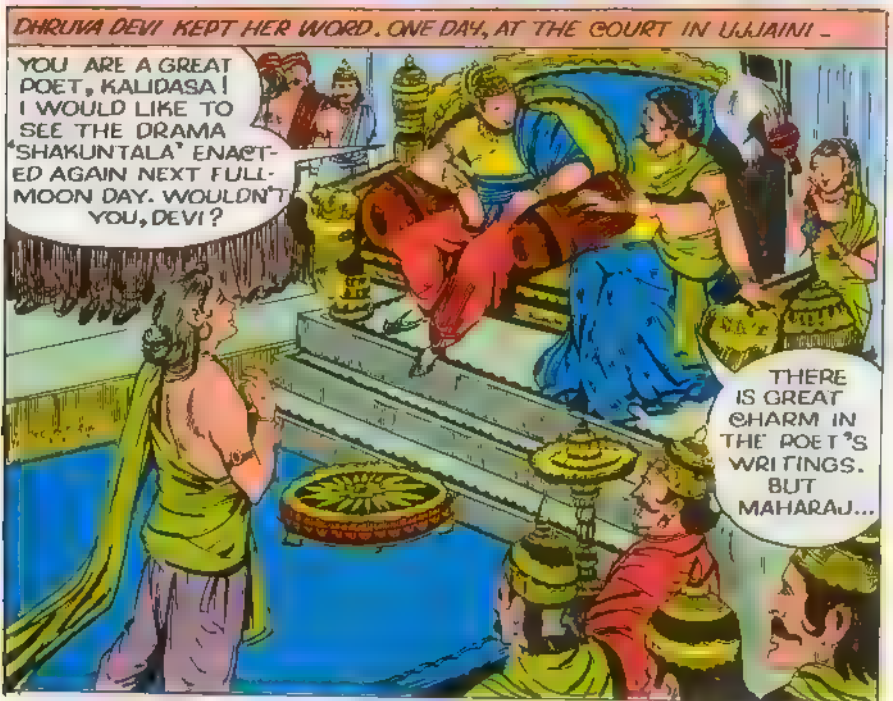
THE WEDDING WAS SOLEMNISED



MINISTER, PLEASE
ASK THE PEOPLE TO
STAY AWHILE!

I HAVE TO MAKE
A SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT.

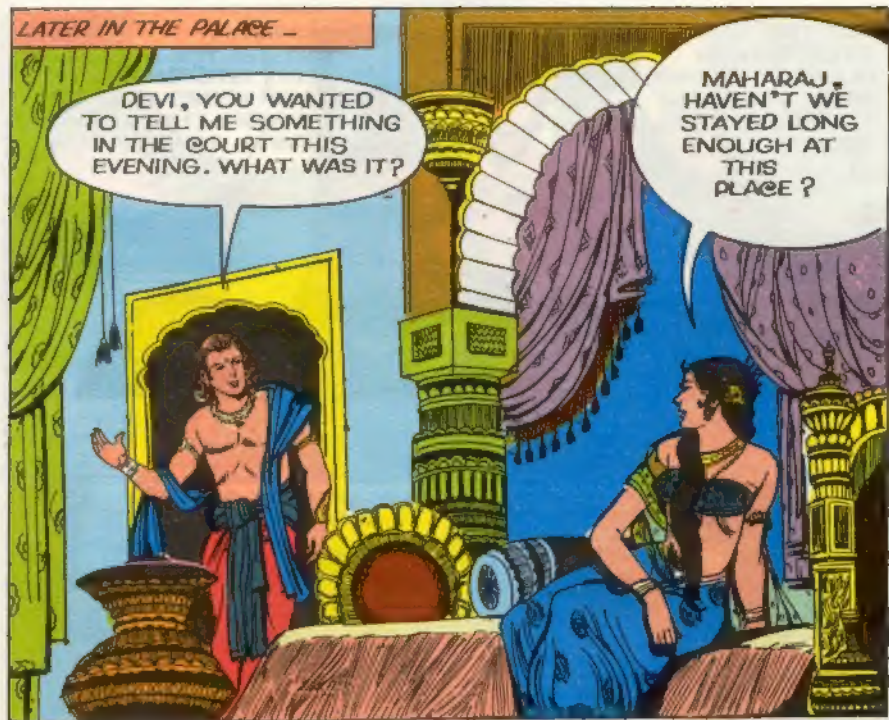




LATER IN THE PALACE -

DEVI, YOU WANTED
TO TELL ME SOMETHING
IN THE COURT THIS
EVENING. WHAT WAS IT?

MAHARAJ,
HAVEN'T WE
STAYED LONG
ENOUGH AT
THIS
PLACE?



I LIKE THE
PLACE.
I LIKE THE
PEOPLE.

THE PEOPLE HERE ADORE
YOU BECAUSE YOU FREED
THEM FROM SAKA DOMINATION.
THEY ALL REFER TO YOU
AS VIKRAMADITYA.
BUT...





BUT THE SAKAS
STILL RULE IN
GUJARAT. IS THAT
WHAT YOU WANT
TO REMIND ME
ABOUT ?

YES AND NEAR
THE BORDERS OF
THIS COUNTRY
THE KUSHANAS
HARASS OUR
PEOPLE .

SPURRED BY THE WORDS OF DHURVA DEVI , CHANDRAGUPTA SOON
LEFT ON A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SAKAS .



MAY VICTORY BE
WITH YOU !

MONTHS LATER -

MAHARANI,
A LETTER FOR
YOU FROM THE
EMPEROR .

THEN WHAT I HEARD
MUST BE RIGHT. THE
MAHARAJ MUST HAVE
WON THE BATTLE
AGAINST THE SAKAS
OF GUJARAT !





PEOPLE GAVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME TO THEIR HERO ON HIS RETURN.



LATER CHANDRAGUPTA WENT AS FAR AS BACTRIA, BEYOND THE HINDU
KUSH MOUNTAINS AND DEFEATED THE KUSHANAS TOO.



Illustrated Classics From India

Vikramaditya

Chandragupta Vikramaditya (380–413 AD), the son of Samudra Gupta, is one of the most famous and celebrated names in Indian history. He is remembered for his valour, courage, sense of justice and, above all, his burning patriotism that saw him succeed in expelling the Sakas from Western India.

Vikramaditya's reign brought peace and prosperity to a vast region that extended from the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea, and from the Himalayas to the Vindhyas. It was this greatness that won him a permanent place in the heart of every Indian. Fa Hien, the Chinese pilgrim who travelled throughout India for over ten years (400–411 AD) during Vikramaditya's reign, wrote an interesting and informative account of the country and its people.

The incidents narrated in this Amar Chitra Katha are based on *Devī Chandragupta* written by Vishakhadatta. This work is now lost, but passages from it quoted in other books give us a glimpse of the events narrated in the work. There are also references to episodes in the life of Chandragupta Vikramaditya in literary works and inscriptions from a later period.

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